



WHAT IS YOU HAVE THE POWER?

You Have the Power is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1993, by Tennessee's First Lady, Andrea Conte. Our mission is education, collaboration and community involvement to help reduce and prevent violent crime.

Andrea Conte knows violent crime first hand. Confronted in a busy shopping center parking lot in the middle of the morning, she resisted her armed kidnapper, but he forced her into his car. Andrea continued her effort to get away, eventually escaping from the car. The kidnapper sped away. He was eventually apprehended a few months later after he murdered a young woman in broad daylight, at a popular Nashville park.

HOW DID YOU HAVE THE POWER BEGIN?

That violent encounter with a kidnapper, and the murder of the young woman in the park was the beginning of "You Have the Power." Because Andrea was well known in the community, she began receiving calls and letters from people asking her what could be done about violent crime. Andrea responded by calling a meeting of victims of crime, government officials, police officials, and private citizens to discuss that question in 1993. Everyone at that first meeting agreed that the right information can reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime, and if you do become a victim of crime, the right information about resources can assist in putting the pieces of a shattered life back together.

WHAT IS YOU HAVE THE POWER'S MISSION?

For several years, You Have the Power operated as a grass roots, all-volunteer organization. It has grown into a not-for-profit organization that has a full time Executive Director and a staff of two. We present public programs on topics of elder abuse, domestic violence and child sexual abuse and have produced documentary videos on these topics that are used all over the country to raise awareness about these issues. Our three volume documentary video series on child sexual abuse features interviews with incarcerated child sex offenders, adult survivors of child sex abuse and experts who work with victims and offenders. We also have produced print materials raising awareness about the crimes of domestic violence, elder abuse, child sexual abuse, and maneuvering the justice system after a crime.

You Have the Power is located at 2814 12th Avenue South, Suite 211, Nashville, TN 37204. You may reach the staff at 615-292-7027 or at www.yhhttp.org.

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